

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10910 290801Z

11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SCCT-01 SCS-01 PRS-01 /040 W

----- 004883

R 290735Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5986

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

RUQMADAXAMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 6108

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10910

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: INCIDENT OF PALESTINIANS RELEASING U.S. GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL

1. LAST EVENING, AUGUST 28, THERE WAS A MINOR INCIDENT
ON ROAD TO AIRPORT DURING WHICH UNKNOWN PALESTINIAN
ELEMENTS SHOT AT SOME VEHICLES AND TURNED SOME PEOPLE
BACK WHO WERE EITHER ENROUTE TO OR FROM AIRPORT. SO FAR
AS WE ARE AWARE, NO REPEAT NO PERSONS WERE KILLED, BUT
THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE.

2. AMONG THOSE STOPPED BY PALESTINIANS WAS AN FSI STUDENT
WHO WAS ENROUTE TO HIS POST AT EMBASSY JIDDA. HE WAS IN A
TAXI ENROUTE TO AIRPORT. THE VEHICLE WAS STOPPED BY ARMED,
UNMASKED MEN. HE WAS DIRECTED IN ENGLISH TO DESCEND
AND TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF. HE DID SO, SHOWING HIS
DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND INDICATED HE WAS EMBASSY JIDDA
OFFICER PROCEEDING TO HIS POST. HE WAS NOT REPEAT
NOT MISTREATED BUT WAS PHYSICALLY HELD IN A DETERMINED
AND FORCEFUL MANNER. AFTER HIS PASSPORT WAS CAREFULLY
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EXAMINED HE WAS DIRECTED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AND STAY

OFF THE AIRPORT ROAD.

3. WE ARE ENDEAVORING, BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL,
TO IDENTIFY PRECISELY WHAT PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WERE INVOLVED.
IF IT WAS FATAH IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY
RELEASED THIS U.S. OFFICIAL, FOR WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO
BELIEVE THAT FATAH UNITS ARE INSTRUCTED NOT REPEAT NOT TO
MOLEST U.S. OFFICIALS. IF, HOWEVER, MEN BELONGED TO AN
ELEMENT OF THE REJECTIONIST FRONT, FOREGOING IS QUITE
SIGNIFICANT.

4. WE DO NOT MEAN TO BLOW FOREGOING UP INTO MAJOR STORY
FOR IT COULD WELL BE THAT ROADBLOCK WAS SET UP BY TOTALLY
UNCOORDINATED INDIVIDUALS WHO JUST DIDN'T WISH TO BE
INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS THE FIRST
INSTANCE THAT I CAN RECALL FOR SOME TIME WHEN
PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS TREATED U.S. OFFICIALS IN A RELATIVELY
COURTEOUS AND CORRECT MANNER.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TERRORISTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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